

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 530

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the good people of Hamilton County upon the occasion of the county's bicentennial.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in joining with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, bountiful and beautiful Hamilton County and its citizens are most assuredly deserving of special recognition, as they celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the county's founding this year; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County was formally established as Tennessee's forty-third county by an act of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on October 25, 1819; and

WHEREAS, the land that would become Hamilton County was acquired through a treaty with the Cherokee Indians, known as the Hiawassee Purchase; and

WHEREAS, the county was named in honor of Alexander Hamilton, Revolutionary War patriot and the first Secretary of the Treasury, who served in the administration of President George Washington; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has a rich history that predates its charter, with the settlement of Ross's Landing by the future Chief of the Cherokee Nation John Ross, who was Chief from 1829 until 1866, and the establishment of the Brainerd Mission as an inclusive ministry to European Americans, Native Peoples, and African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County became a productive agricultural and trading community, enhanced by its fertile lands with access to the Tennessee River and numerous tributaries; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County played a pivotal role in the United States Civil War, serving as the Gateway to the South for Union forces and the Gateway to Freedom for former slaves journeying northward for the protection of the Union Army; and

WHEREAS, U.S. General Ulysses S. Grant, future president of the United States, established his military headquarters in Hamilton County in 1863 and assumed command of the Battles of Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and Orchard Knob, as well as subsequent smaller conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the towns of Soddy, Dallas, and Harrison served as the county seat until the government was permanently moved to Chattanooga in 1870, accompanied by a rapid increase in economic development that included banking, industry, business, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County entered the twentieth century with even more national prominence: residents volunteered to serve in the Great War; Abby Crawford Milton served as the first president of the Tennessee League of Women Voters and championed the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; citizens united in their support of World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War, with the ultimate sacrifice of almost 1,000 men; and Hamilton County entered a renaissance, with a beautification of Chattanooga and national prominence for cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County stands poised to continue its prosperity and to provide an increased standard of living for its citizens as it preserves its history and promotes its rich heritage; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County is one of the great counties in Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the citizens of Hamilton County upon the

celebration of the county's bicentennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community, which is a true Tennessee treasure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.